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WRL NEWS

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**HOLD THE DATE—
WRL CONFERENCE**

The WRL will hold its fourth Annual Conference this year at a camp in Hiram, Ohio. The dates will be over the Columbus Day weekend—October 7-9. Write in for further information which will be available later.

THE PEOPLE'S BLOCKADES
by Bob Levering

Peace movement activists learned of the role of Earle Naval Ammunition Depot in Leonardo, New Jersey, almost by accident. An AWOL sailor from the USS Nitro contacted a movement group in Boston in late April, informing them that his ship was bound for Earle to pick up its lethal cargo for Vietnam. So its arrival at Leonardo was the occasion of the first attempted nonviolent sea blockade of the war. Before the ammunition ship, USS Nitro left, 21 demonstrators had been arrested trying to block an ammunition train carrying bombs to be loaded on the Nitro. About 20 canoes hampered the ship's sailing. Most significantly 7 sailors from the Nitro actually jumped overboard as the ship was heading out to sea.

WRLers Arrested

Since that time a series of actions on both sea and land have occurred. On the weekend of June 10-11, 89 persons were arrested. WRL Chairman, Igal Roodenko, Executive Committee members, Brad Lyttle and Wendy Schwartz, as well as WRL NEWS editor, Jim Peck, were arrested with a group of 37 for "loitering" while peacefully vigiling at the Earle Depot gate. Five who refused to pay the $75 fine, including Igal were sentenced to 15 days for contempt. Another 52 were arrested the next day while conducting a religious service on the ammunition train tracks. Those tried in Newark federal court thus far on charges arising from that action have been fined $250 each.

The military generally has been getting more uptight about the attempted blockades at Earle depot: Since June 17, 12 canoeists have been arrested, 10 for violations of the so-called security zone, a provision of the Espionage Act, which carries a 10 year maximum jail sentence. Local officials also have been intensifying their harassment of activists—from stopping cars with suspected demonstrators, to arresting leafleters.

More Blockades Planned

Other People's Blockades have taken place at Norfolk, Virginia and Bangor,

(Continued on page 2)

SECOND GOODWILL TRIP TO CUBA

photo by Edgardo-Cuban Intl. Friendship Organization

This photo shows Mondcivitano crew members Ed Gottlieb, Lindsay Stewart, Julian Howell, Victor Solomon and Captain Scott Herrick greeting 15 Cuban children who visited the 47-foot ketch on May 21 in Havana. (Crew members not in photo are Elena Paz, John Alpert and Keiko Tsuno.) The 15 children were presented with musical instruments from the boat's cargo of 100 recorders and 30 other items including guitars, French horns, accordions and harps. The remaining instruments were taken ashore by Cuban officials for distribution to schools where they were most needed.

The shortage of musical instruments for children's instruction prompted the idea for the cargo on this second goodwill trip to Cuba—just a year after the first. Last year's cargo was art work by U.S. children which was exchanged for paintings and drawings by Cuban children. The Cuban children's paintings still are being exhibited across the U.S. Like in 1971, none of the crew had either U.S. passports (which are invalid for Cuba) nor Cuban visas—only world citizens passports. Except for a couple of escorted trips ashore, the crew was confined aboard and the Mondcivitano was permitted to remain in Havana only two days.

FIRST FOUR WRI DEMONSTRATORS ARRESTED IN SPAIN

The first four War Resisters International demonstrators for CO rights in Spain were arrested: Mireille Royer and George Elias in Madrid June 12 (They were sentenced to 100,000 pesetas fine or a month in jail) and Yves Charfe and Mireille May in Santander June 18.

WRI plans similar actions in different Spanish cities for the four ensuing Sundays. The demonstrations consist of two or three persons walking along the streets with placards urging recognition of CO rights. For the past two years, WRI has been conducting a campaign on this issue, highlighted in early 1971 by a walk from Switzerland to Spain.

"Such actions as these gain much from outside support," asserts a WRI statement. "As many letters as possible should be sent to Spanish Embassies protesting these arrests and supporting the demands of the demonstrators, which include freedom for the COs at present in Spanish prisons."

TWO LIT. SPECIALS

DANBURY: ANATOMY OF A PRISON STRIKE. Reprinted as a 12-page pamphlet from the May issue of LIBERATION, this article by John Bach and Mitchell Snyder is described by Jim Peck, author of a book about Danbury in the 1940s, as: "The best piece of writing I have read on the issue of prison strikes." 25c

NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION. Because we have been fortunate enough to secure remainders, we now are able to sell this 530-page anthology by A. Paul Hare and Herbert Blumberg of first hand accounts of nonviolent confrontation for less than one third its original price $3

SPECIAL PEACE BUTTONS

(produced by Cicero Codina, longtime WRLer and available from WRL office)

Smile (Peace)—Nix on Wars—Peace (dove)—Peace on Earth—Live in Peace—Walk in Peace—Peace is Wonderful—Thou Shalt Not Kill—Vivere in Pace (Italian)—Blessed Are The Peacemakers—End The War Now.

25c apiece, 7 for $1, 30 for $3. On quantity orders, you can specify how many you want with each particular slogan.

LESS THAN 30 MILES FROM NEW YORK

by Jim Peck

Demonstrating June 10 in the northeastern extremity of New Jersey, only an hour's busride from New York, was like demonstrating in some distant rural area as far as community and police attitudes are concerned.

As we started a 3-mile march to Earle Ammunition Depot down the Atlantic Highlands main street, we were greeted, first by almost unanimously hostile remarks and then by exploding firecrackers. So many of these symbolic shots were fired at us, that I began to wonder whether the town would have enough firecrackers left over for the 4th of July. I observed only one man along the sidewalks who favored us. In a loud voice, he was apologizing for the *Un*silent "majority" and asserting that they didn't really represent the feelings of Atlantic Highlands.

As we entered the township of Leonardo, with its neat, middleclass, lawnfronted homes, we observed that at several of the intersections, were small groups of young people with American flags. As we passed them, they voiced their hostility but made no move to attack us, possibly because we outnumbered them, possibly because of the police care which followed our march.

We bypassed the gate, and started to vigil just beyond it, as agreed to in negotiations with the police. However, we had barely started, when the captain announced over a bullhorn that if we did not disperse in five minutes, we would be arrested. We started to disperse, aware that the civil disobedience—a sitdown on the railroad tracks—was scheduled for tomorrow, not today.

But as we moved back in the direction from which we had come, a police bus arrived and we were summarily ordered to get in—not more than 2 minutes after we had been given 5 minutes to disperse. Some of the 37 arrested did not even realize this was a bust—they thought the bus was merely to transport us back to Atlantic Highlands. The charge turned out to be "loitering." We were convicted and fined $75 in lower court following a trial in which local police lied freely about every aspect of the demo. But the American Civil Liberties Union hopes to win an appeal because, civil liberties are supposed to exist—even in that community less than 30 miles from New York.

PEOPLE'S BLOCKADES (contd.)

Washington. By placing their bodies on ammunition train tracks or in canoes obstructing ammunition ships, participants in the People's Blockades hope to dramatize the fact that the U.S. government is continuing to kill people in Indochina. More People's Blockades are planned for the coming months.

To help coordinate this effort, People's Blockade has established a national office at 160 North 15 Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19102 and has distributed announcements which say: "We have lists of possible targets—sea terminals, railroad tracks and air bases. And we can help you make contact with experienced organizers and trainers. Contact us if you are interested in developing a People's Blockade in your area."

WIN PASSPORT CASE

In a case involving Beverly Woodward, WRL national committee member and four other persons, U.S. Judge Thomas Flannery on June 26 outlawed the oath of allegiance as a prerequisite for obtaining U.S. passports. The ruling came in time for Beverly to leave—by freighter—for the WRI triennial conference in London.

The case was handled for the American Civil Liberties Union by Attorney A. Douglas Melamed. Since 1966 the oath had become optional, though most passport applicants were not informed of this fact. But, as a result of court action last summer, Secretary of State William Rogers had been ordered either to delete the oath or make it mandatory. He chose the latter. Now, he will have to accept the former.

ENROLLMENT BLANK

Send to War Resisters League
339 Lafayette Street, N. Y., N.Y. 10012

WAR IS A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY.
I THEREFORE AM DETERMINED NOT TO SUPPORT ANY KIND OF WAR, INTERNATIONAL OR CIVIL, AND TO STRIVE FOR THE REMOVAL OF ALL THE CAUSES OF WAR

signature

address

city

state *zip code*

Wandering Around the Country—Again

by Igal Roodenko

A four-month tour to 60 cities in 25 states leaves little time for calm observation. It takes much energy and time to drive 18,000 miles and to speak twice daily, day-in and day-out, to small "live" groups or to public media people. New friends are met constantly and left reluctantly. And it is largely the good things happening, and the good people met, which keep the relentless schedule from becoming unendurable.

Are there good things happening across the country? Consider some of the following—encounters which would have been hard to imagine not too many years ago: An hour's discussion with a police academy class in North Carolina. A debate with an air force colonel in Colorado during which he stated that perhaps the nation's biggest problem is that we don't know how to lose a war. An evening and part of the night spent with a dozen marines in Arizona —at the invitation of two of their lieutenants—discussing nonviolence, civil disobedience and conscientious objection. A three-hour visit with 14 COs in a federal prison. Seeing 15 University of Illinois faculty members sit down to be arrested at an entrance to Chanute air force base. Speaking to high school students in Witchita and Sacramento and Milwaukee and Cincinnati—not so much about big national problems as about living your own life, making your own decisions, rather than being a cog in someone else's machine.

It was in the high schools and colleges that I kept running into an attitude which seemed to be saying: We know that the what-is is not good; we are almost as certain that the mirror image of the what-is is hardly any better; we know that the third way of nonviolence makes the most sense, but it seems so hopeless. Please try to help us believe that it can work. In moments of optimism I kept feeling that the nonviolent movement may be now where Darwinism was on the eve of the Scopes trial: widely accepted intellectually, but not officially. It was the legal defeat for the biological concepts of natural selection, in 1925, which really put an end to the entrenched position of the fundamentalists.

It goes without saying that those who come to our voluntary meetings are largely in agreement with us already. But how explain the response of the 50 newspaper, radio and TV persons? Here are men and women whose business is to know what is happening behind the scenes, who are well aware of the deceit and the snow-jobs which the last three administrations have dealt out to the public. This awareness almost always leads to some measure of cynicism; but when they meet-up with an older person who speaks gently but with determination about nonviolent resistance, and who speaks out of the context of a 50-year old Gandhian organization, some of that cynicism is lessened. Could there be some reason for hope after all?

Reasons for Hope

I make no claim to objectivity: I keep looking for reasons for hope. And I find them. But am I so different from the "objective" commentators and social scientists? I submit that they, as much as we "idealists," start out with certain hunches and preconceptions, and it is quite easy to find the data to support any conclusion they start with. And so the "realists" know—as if they had private crystal balls for predicting the future—that Nixon has the re-election in the bag, that any political change is not really any change at all, that public concern about the war is all but gone, that even if this war ends another will break out somewhere else, etc. Well, maybe. But where did the millions upon millions of anti-war people come from over the past decade? And where did the many thousands of people come from who brought an absolutely hopeless candidate to within sight of election? Not that McGovern will solve all problems for us—but I believe that he will make it somewhat easier for us, for the people of the United States, to develop greater control over our own lives.

To speak of the "system" as incapable of change is as wooden-headed as rightists claiming that Russia and China can't change. It is to ignore that whatever is alive—every society, every human, every blade of grass—is constantly changing. The logic of describing the system as unchangeable thus becomes the ultimate cop-out: If it is indeed unchangeable, why even try? And you can sit back enjoying your superior wisdom—and do nothing but bitch. (In another context, Thoreau remarked that most men lead lives of quiet desperation.) The essence of the nonviolent approach, to me, thus becomes not so much describing how impossible a situation is, but in developing that kind of creativity which can act in spite of all the handicaps. Not God nor McGovern nor the Kremlin nor the Party will create a more decent, viable society. You and I will. Should it turn out that we can't, it will be not because we haven't tried, but because so many say that the effort is hopeless.

The McGovern Campaign

Which brings us to the McGovern campaign. Many peace people remember vividly the deceit of Johnson's superiority to Goldwater and the lie of Nixon's "secret" peace plan. Yet, I think, that the McGovern campaign is different in several ways: we see now that the reforms of the Democratic party procedure are quite real; the threat of millions of new young voters are giving the old pros many sleepless nights; the early initiative for the McGovern campaign came from small contributions by thousands of private citizens and not from a few wealthy manipulators; the mood among the youth which the commentators call one of apathy is more often one of skepticism—they're not going to be fooled so easily again. Does this mean that we should drop all antiwar activity for McGovern politicking? Not at all. What is true to me is that *everything we do to raise general consciousness of the war is helping his political campaign.* Conversely, his emphasis on ending the war and reordering American priorities makes the public more open to what we have to say and have to do. A good union organizer knows that, when he first comes to a nonunion plant, he must first raise consciousness among the workers. Then comes the time when he feels he has enough support to take on management in an open election. I believe strongly that the antiwar movement has now reached this second phase.

We must also consider another problem. Nixon's proven inventiveness might possibly lead him to conclude that the only way he can stay in the White House is by ending the war. Absolutely. I'm not counting on it, but I don't think we should preclude its possibility. And, then, what happens to the antiwar movement and to radical pacifism specifically? Sooner or later we will have to face this question and I hope that we can give this some thought in WRL NEWS, in *WIN* and at the fall conference of the League.

REPORT FROM ATLANTA

by Jerry Wingate

I want to give you some idea of what's going on down here and what we are involved in. Things have been a bit rough, coming into a new area, taking over completely, the bombing (reported in last WRL NEWS), new structure and working in local politics, all at once. Things at the house are starting to stabilize. David Hall will be coming back after a one month retreat and another military CO will be coming down to work. With the people we already have, we should be in very good shape. We are developing a good work routine and putting this puzzle together piece by piece. The folks on our advisory council are proving most helpful and we are convinced that they will be a real working group. Our summer seminars program began July 8.

Having people on the advisory council from the Farmworkers, CPF, Quaker House and SCLC has meant very close contact with those groups. We are looking forward to developing a close working relationship between all these groups.

Two months ago, we helped to start a new Atlanta area coalition known as Atlanta Coordinating Committee. The initial work was done by some New American Movement folks and things have progressed rather well. Our first joint action was a series of demonstrations around the National Jaycees convention. They invited Nixon, Wallace and Billy Graham as speakers. After we began organizing, Nixon canceled and sent Agnew in his place. Wallace was out, of course. We began June 14, the night before the convention opened, with a vigil in front of the Atlanta Civic Center. After three hours, the cops chased us off and we left rather than press the confrontation at that time. We went home, called others and planned a sunrise meeting for worship at the Civic Center. The vigil had already gotten good press, so we figured the morning confrontation was more likely to bring people together.

At dawn 22 of us gathered, blocked the sidewalk completely as we sat in a circle and held a free style meeting. We stayed for two hours and, even though the Jaycees had begun to arrive for their opening session, the cops left us alone.

That afternoon, our coalition held a rally-picnic in a park and we all set up info booths. Paul Mayer, Le Ahn Tu (from NARMIC), Rick Reed and others spoke. About 600 people attended and it was a nice day. The rally was to be primarily informational and educational and I think it fullfilled that purpose.

June 19, was the major demo. That is the day Agnew gave the keynote. We had a short march and a two and one half hour picket line in front of the Civic Center: 200 people showed up despite the torrential winds and rain of hurricane Agnes. We thought the turnout was marvelous in view of the weather. We were all soaked to the bone.

LONGTIME WRLer DEMONSTRATES IN TANZANIA

Bill Sutherland, longtime WRLer now living in Tanzania, participates in mass demonstration in that nation's capital, Dar-Es-Salaam, following Nixon's announcement that the North Vietnamese harbors would be mined.

NEEDED—SUMMER DOLLARS

Why is this issue of the WRL NEWS only four pages? You guessed it—no money. Why are we sending the enclosed fund appeal in a third class mailing instead of in the usual first class mailing? Right again—no money. Help . . help . . help . . help.

WINS RIGHT TO LEAFLET ON ARMY BASE

Declaring that military commanders cannot bar anti-war leaflet distributors from sections of army bases which are open to the public, the U.S. Supreme Court on June 12, 6 to 3, reversed the conviction of Tom Flowers, southwest WRL field representative.

"Whatever power the authorities may have to restrict general access to a military facility, here the fort commander chose not to exclude the public from the avenue where petitioner was arrested," the court ruled. "Under such circumstances the military has abandoned any claim that it has special interests in who walks, talks or leaflets on the avenue."

The thoroughfare in question is Braunfels Avenue, which passes through Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio. Flower was arrested there in November 1969 and received the maximum prison sentence of 6 months without bail. He remained in jail for three weeks until an emergency panel of the Circuit Court of Appeals ordered him released on $500 bail. Flower's attorney was Maury Maverick, Jr., son of the renowned radical former senator from Texas.